

50172
#) 30 May 1945

Subject: Memorandum on SCHWEND alias WENDIG

Source: Interrogation of Josef DAUSER

According to DAUSER, SCHWEND spent some years in the United States where his best friend was GYSSLING, the German consul in San Francisco. SCHWEND returned to Germany and during the war worked for the Abwehr in Munich. He also worked for the Devisenueberwachungsstelle, his mission being to discover hidden foreign currency. His best friends were the brothers Rudi and Oskar BLASCHKE who were also with the Abwehr in Munich.

About July 1942 after a controversy with the Abwehr SCHWEND and the BLASCHKE brothers left the service. SCHWEND went to Hauptsturmfuehrer GODE, head of SD Amt VI, Munich, and offered to work for Amt VI but GODE refused to employ SCHWEND. GODE was replaced in 1942 by DAUSER and in the beginning of 1943 SCHWEND with the support of Berlin joined Amt VI, Munich.

In the beginning of 1943 Obersturmfuehrer GROEBEL, Amt VI, Berlin, and SCHWEND asked DAUSER to find someone who could be used to sell English pounds for foreign currency. GROEBEL hinted that they were forged pounds and that it was a counter-measure to be taken against the fake money and ration coupons that had been dropped by the English in Holland and Belgium. The plan was called Aktion I.

SCHWEND and DAUSER could find no one suitable for the job in the Amt VI Munich office. Through his secretary Bertha Von EHRENSTEIN, DAUSER HAD MET George SPITZ, a Jew whose papers were not in order with the police. DAUSER put pressure on SPITZ and SPITZ agreed to work for DAUSER.

DAUSER says that the English banknotes were brought into the Amt VI office by SCHWEND and the BLASCHKE brothers in suitcases and were tied in bundles and stored in the office. DAUSER'S secretary Bertha Von EHRENSTEIN kept the accounts of all the money brought in and was well-informed on the whole plan.

Each time BLASCHKE or SPITZ left on a mission the following preparations were made: the English banknotes, which were brand new, were thrown on the floor and dirtied; they were then counted and tied up in bundles. Care was taken to mix the notes up because they were printed on two different types of paper. BLASCHKE and SPITZ were given a special ausweis for travelling in order to avoid the German controls.

At one point DAUSER asked SCHWEND for proof that Aktion I was an official Amt VI operation and not just a private money-making scheme. SCHWEND told him that HIMMLER, Obersturmfuehrer GROEBEL and Hauptsturmfuehrer DIERKSHEIDE were involved in the affair and that it was an official business.

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DAUSER says that he was told the banknotes were taken from prisoners but it is his belief that they were printed by Amt VI. He also heard that there were forged dollar notes and stamps but he never saw any of them.

The amounts which SPITZ and BLASCHKE brought back from Holland and Belgium were worth approximately 600,000 gold marks. SPITZ would give the currency to DAUSER who in turn gave it to Sturmbannfuehrer HOETTL of Vienna or to HOETTL's assistant Hauptsturmfuehrer FROELICH. HOETTL gave the currency to KALTENBRUNNER who probably passed it on to HIMMLER or FUNK.

DAUSER learned while in Berlin that Amt VI W1 was headed by Kriminalkomissar DANZIGER who was also involved in Aktion I. DANZIGER had men placed in various parts of Germany who were also dealing in foreign currency and SCHWEND was in contact with these people.

DAUSER reports that Rudi BLASCHKE was arrested in Lichtenstein for passing forged pound notes but that he was released later when it was discovered that the notes were not fake.

DAUSER also reports that the printing press was moved from Berlin and Vienna because of the bombings.

In 1944 SCHWEND put pressure on SPITZ to make a trip to Denmark to buy pounds but SPITZ managed to postpone the journey. At the same time SCHWEND also ordered Untersturmfuehrer Dr. WAGNER to go to Holland. WAGNER was to be attached to the Amt VI Munich office. DAUSER says that he only saw WAGNER twice, once at Meran and again at Munich on his way to Holland.

At the end of 1943 Amt VI Munich turned over all the currency they had to Vienna. DAUSER says that he realized gradually that GROEBEL, HOETTL and FROELICH were keeping a great deal of the money for themselves. DAUSER believes that they gave the name of Unternehmen Bernard to a similar financial affair which they kept secret from Berlin. As far as Berlin was concerned the name of the official currency operation was always Aktion I.

DAUSER lists the following people as working with SCHWEND:

Rudi BLASCHKE

Oskar BLASCHKE

Captain GIABAND, a Yugoslav.

Fred MANSER

-- MANSER, Brother of Fred.

Regierungsrat SOLINGER, of the Zollfahndungstelle,
Munich.

Untersturmfuehrer Dr. WAGNER

VIDAS, an Italian at Meran.